
Subject: Dumb Dumb Question

Posted by [rosentha](#) on Tue, 17 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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This may be really stupid, but is there a way around the following feature:

```
pro x_test,x=x,x2=x2
  if n_elements(x) ne 0 then print, 'x=',x
  if n_elements(x2) ne 0 then print, 'x2=',x2
end
```

when I run it with

```
> x_test,x=1
```

I get

```
% Ambiguous keyword abbreviation: X.
```

```
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

Does this mean no IDL procedure will ever work if one keyword is a left substring of another keyword? Can I force IDL to interpret the "x" as "x" and not an ambiguous abbreviation for "x2"?

--

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Subject: Re: Dumb Dumb Question

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 24 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Colin Rosenthal wrote:

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> feature:
```

```
>
```

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>   if n_elements(x) ne 0 then print, 'x=',x
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>   if n_elements(x2) ne 0 then print, 'x2=',x2
```

```
> end
```

```
>
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>
> Does this mean no IDL procedure will ever work if one keyword is a left
> substring of another keyword? Can I force IDL to interpret the "x" as "x"
> and not an ambiguous abbreviation for "x2"?
>

Both yes:

But you can use a little trick like that:

```
FUNCTION is_tag,struct,tag_name
  tagname=STRUPCASE(tag_name)
  tags=TAG_NAMES(struct)
  a=WHERE(tags EQ tagname,count)
  RETURN, count
END
```

```
pro x_test,_extra=pkey
  if is_tag(pkey,'x')then print, 'x=',pkey.x
  if is_tag(pkey,'x2') ne 0 then print, 'x2=',pkey.x2
end
```

R Bauer
